Starvation deaths

65. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether several cases of death due to starvation in different States have come to light till date during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the action taken/being taken to provide foodgrains to families affected by it and also to check such starvation deaths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No incident of starvation death has been reported by any State/Union Territory so far.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) To ensure food security to all, the Targeted Public Distribution System is being implemented all over the country through 4,89,000 Fair Price Shops. Additionally, foodgrains are provided free of cost under relief works like Special Component of Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana, National Food for Work Programme and Annapurna Yojana.

A Central scheme for establishing Village Grain Banks for Antyodaya and BPL families in food scarce areas is also under implementation in many States. Such families can get foodgrains on loan basis from the Village Grain Banks established in their areas.

Sick persons in the country

†66. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick persons in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Government have made or propose to make any assessment regarding the number of healthy and sick persons in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the funds allotted to the States are being utilized properly by them;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) whether any laxity has been shown in the formulation of schemes and utilization of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation conducted a Survey on "Morbidity, Health Care and The Condition of the Aged: NSSO 60th Round (January-June, 2004)". According to the results of the Survey, the estimated number of persons reporting ailment during the last 15 days of the survey

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi